

Alaska has been handed over by the Government of the U. S. "to one of the most corrupt and tyrannical monopolies that has ever existed" Scarcely any phase of the African Slave Trade presents worse features than does their treatment of the Aleut Indians. They over-ride their own Government officials, and their piratical proceedings in Behring's Sea are sufficiently well-known.

The sportive American has seen his way to adding another to the countless abominations of slang for which he is responsible. "Tacky" is the new word, and it would be difficult to conceive a more senseless one. It is said to mean "inferior," in "bad form," or "shady." It is to be hoped all Canadians will be total abstainers from the use of it. The source from which we take it says its origin is obscure. We do not think it is of any sort of consequence what its origin is.

*Imperial Federation*, (Eng.), has the following:—"We much regret that all our extracts from Canadian journals this month say the same thing. We would gladly have presented the other side, but have found it impossible, in spite of all our good intentions. Surely there must be one or two journals in Canada that sympathise with Senator Sherman. We trust that our Canadian readers, when they come across these black swans, will not fail to send us specimens of their plumage."

The *Minneapolis Evening Journal* sent a circular to the *Ottawa Evening Journal* requesting the views of the latter as to annexation. The communications desired were not to exceed 300 words. This cautious limitation seems to have been quite superfluous in the case of the *Ottawa paper*, which deals with the subject not in 300 words but in three. "When," it says, "Vanderbilt was told the public was kicking about him, he said, 'The public be d—d.' We feel the same about annexation."

Another fight is reported as occurring about ten days ago between the Baltimore oyster-dredgers and U. S. Revenue Cruisers. The previous one was quite severe, but in this case the *Macleau*, which was first attacked and riddled with bullets from repeating rifles, resorted to extreme measures, and rammed two of the dredgers, sinking one with all her crew but one man, and another with the loss of two of her crew. Further warfare was talked of among the lawless dredgers, whose offence is pursuing their avocation on unlawful ground.

There are certainly two ways of looking at things. The *Empire* says:—"The *Montreal Herald* does not like the tone of the Canadian journals that remain loyal and patriotic, and thinks that theirs is not 'the way to speak to a free people.' It is a free people who are saying very emphatically that they do not wish to be betrayed by the plotting allies of foreigners. It seems to be the opinion of some of the annexationist advocates of free speech that everybody should be free to speak treason, but that no one should be free to speak against it."

The White Cap organization, of Ohio and Indiana, which has developed into an infamous instrument of malice and cruelty, is a disgrace to a civilized country. It is true that the rude state of these districts can scarcely be realized by Canadians who are accustomed to judge of the U. S. by the energetic and advanced communities they are most familiar with, and which they themselves have done no little in building up, but there are many parts of the States backward and ignorant to a degree inconceivable to the educated and law-abiding Canadian.

A pleasant state of things has been prevailing in one of the Southern States. Some men being arrested for outrage, a body of regulators attacked the gaol. The Sheriff and his posse opened fire on the mob, and killed and wounded a considerable number of the would be lynchers. The State troops had to be called out, and the Commanding Officer, at latest advices, thought he could control the situation. We have purposely adverted to some of these American amenities with a view to asking whether the United States, despite the many grand features of their polity, is altogether the sort of country which will commend itself to Canadians?

Why do our Canadian newspapers occupy so much of their space with the very unattractive details of the flat planes of American life and society? Where they are not flat, but sensational, they mostly inspire the distaste inseparable from the contemplation of a childish craving for notoriety of the silliest description, and of morals and manners of a low grade. Even the utterances of prominent persons, elicited by the detestable "interviewer," are shallow. It goes without saying that we are looking at the worst side only of Americanism, but it is precisely that, and not the higher, of which our papers are full. Was not Matthew Arnold, at all events aesthetically right, in saying that American society is uninteresting?

It would almost seem that there is some hope of now obtaining a fast Atlantic service for Canada. It is understood that a call will shortly be made for new tenders, and it is said that a weekly service, with a minimum speed of 20 knots per hour, can be had for \$500,000. This is a very heavy sum, and could probably be reduced, but there are considerations which should lead to exertion on the part of Halifax, even if the cost be ultimately high. There would, no doubt, be strong opposition to the substitution of Halifax as the summer, as well as the winter terminus, yet there would be no loss of time to passengers from landing here, while they would be saved 700 miles of sea voyage. On the other hand, the landing of the Maritime Province Mails at Rimouski is a distinct injustice, and a delay which ought to be obviated if possible.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the Government that the Mormon immigration requires looking after in the sternest and most vigilant manner. One Stenhouse has the impudence, as reported, to defend this detestable institution on the ground that the Mormons have as much right to consideration of their polygamy as the 40,000,000 of Mohammedan British subjects. No credit whatever is due to their declarations that they will refrain from their usual practice on Canadian soil. It is already said that some of their households rejoice in an undue proportion of "aunts." If any proof of the suspicions entertained should be forthcoming, the measures adopted to stamp out this social infamy within our borders should be swift and resolute.

It has lately become a custom to analyze the actual vote cast in elections, independent of the majority for the mass of party candidates returned, and it is a custom which has its decided uses. In the case of the late Presidential election it appears that Mr Cleveland's actual plurality, in the country at large was about 80,000. When he defeated Mr. Blaine it was only 23,000. It is therefore demonstrated that the majority of the electoral college chosen may be far from being a true representation of the people. It would not be surprising if these considerations should lead to a revision of the Constitution of the United States, and the substitution of a direct vote of the people for their Chief Magistrate, and the consequent abolition of the Electoral College.

There are fishermen and fishermen. No doubt many of the New England fishermen are honest and law-abiding, but there are numbers whose practices are more those of desperados and smugglers than of legitimate fishermen. As the Americans in the 1812-14 war used langridge of a kind under the ban of honorable nations, so some of their fishermen now use the gigantic purse-seine, which is a wholesale instrument of indiscriminate destruction of the fisheries, about which these men care not a jot so long as season by season they can grasp a large catch. These are the men who will recklessly, and with deliberate malice, violate treaty regulations, not only hoping for the support of their Government, but with the purpose of creating international difficulties.

One of the most singular features of ethnology is the tendency of the Latin races to callousness towards animals. The Italian habitually treats his beast of burthen with brutality, and the Spanish muleteer has no name for his faithful servant but "Mulo," an epithet scarcely ever spoken without the accompaniment of a blow, and no access of humanity comes to lighten the darkness of stolidity and cruelty, for we are told that bull fighting is increasing in popular favor in Spain. More new rings have been built during the last twelve years than during the previous twenty, and the pay of the performers has increased. It would be as worthy of the beneficence of Leo XIII to make a stand on this point of Christianity, as has been his action with regard to the Slave Trade.

A practical suggestion has been recently made by a correspondent of the *St. James' Gazette* on the subject of the relations of the Colonies to the Home Government. It is that the Colonial Agents-General should be located in Downing St., and all the business of the Colonies, with the consent of their Governments, should pass to the Secretary of State through their hands, instead of, as at present, through the permanent Colonial Office Staff. By this means the Secretary of State would transact business in direct touch with the Colonial Ministries, and the duties of the permanent Staff of the Colonial Office would be to transact the business of the Colonies with Imperial Departments only. Such an arrangement would probably obviate a good deal of red-tape, and might be a step towards giving the Colonies a more decisive voice in transacting their affairs in common with the English Government.

The following might perhaps be worth the attention of the Halifax Street Railway Co. Electric power for the propulsion of street cars seems to be growing in favor. The service is a very hard one on horses, and if the following statement is correct there would be an economy in the substitution of electricity. It also speaks volumes for American activity and enterprise. It appears they have been consistently fostering their trade with New Zealand, and we are now told that the Auckland Tramways Company is about to accept a proposal from a well-known Boston firm to supply them with electric cars and power. The power can be supplied at the rate of 14c. per mile, while the horse system at present in use costs 21c. The result of the change will be a saving to the company of about \$150,000 a year. This, we presume, does not take into account the replacement of horses, which the car service so soon wears out.

There is, it seems to us, a great deal more fuss made about the Confederation of Newfoundland than the subject demands. In that incessant and nauseating anxiety to make party capital out of nothing, one side magnifies the indications that some Newfoundlanders are favorable to the measure. The other eagerly trumps up stories of the corruption which it wishes to believe is brought to bear to influence prominent politicians of the Island. All which may be taken for what it is worth, which is—nothing! One of the chief attractions of the subject is to vamp up the old story of the manner in which Confederation was carried in Nova Scotia. This is a dead issue, and Nova Scotians who wish to promote the best interests of their country are sick of it. We regard it as not of primary importance whether Newfoundland comes in or not, though, on the whole, we think it would be desirable, but one thing is certain—there is no hurry about it, and it would be better that the Ancient Colony should remain out in the cold forever than be cajoled, or even over-persuaded, into Confederation.